



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	22-0010 Severe Weather 21MAR
Date	March 23, 2022
Time	9:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM March 22 to 8:00 AM March 23, 2022
Report Number	2

Regions Affected

DPS Regions Affected	1, 2, 5, 6
DDCs Active	6, 16D

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On March 22, 2022, Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration for the following counties: Bastrop, Cass, Cooke, Grayson, Guadalupe, Houston, Jack, Madison, Marion, Montague, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, Upshur, Williamson, and Wise.

Preliminary storm surveys conducted by the National Weather Service (NWS) have confirmed 11 tornadoes within the North and Central Texas Counties from Monday's storms. The afternoon and evening of Monday, March 21. So far, 11 tornadoes have been confirmed. The highest rated tornado (Jack County, EF3) is still under investigation. Additional storm surveys are also planned for parts of central Texas on Wednesday March 23. Counties with reported damage still to be investigated include Limestone, Bell, McLennan, Falls, and Milam. The initial findings of this damage survey are preliminary, and the storm survey will continue today in Marion and Cass counties in east Texas. TDEM relayed an additional 5 injuries in Marion County and while the track likely continues on the ground, the NWS Team has not surveyed this area yet.

On March 21, Governor Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to mobilize state resources in anticipation of severe weather and flash flooding that is expected to impact areas of Texas beginning Monday afternoon into the early morning hours of Tuesday. Threats from the severe storms moving across Central, North, and East Texas could bring large hail, damaging winds, flash flooding, and the potential for tornadoes. Additionally, the state continues to support firefighting efforts in response to wildfires across Texas.

The following state assets have been mobilized in support of the severe weather response:

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service - Texas A&M Task Force One and Texas Task Force Two (TX-TF1 & 2): Two Urban Search and Rescue Teams and four Swiftwater Boat Squads
- Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): Saw crews on standby
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Texas Game Warden Swiftwater Boat Rescue Teams
- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Packages.

The Texas State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) is activated at Level II Escalated Response in support of severe weather.

Texans are urged to follow these flood preparedness and safety tips during severe weather events:

- Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information here: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Build an emergency supply kit. For more information on how to build a kit, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.
- Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect so the time to buy is well before a disaster. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.
- Be extremely cautious of any water on roads or in creeks, streams, storm drains, or other areas – never attempt to cross flowing streams or drive across flooded roadways and always observe road barricades placed for your protection. Remember, "Turn Around Don't Drown".

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 1 (Includes DDCs 4, 5, 6, and 22)

DDC 4 – Hurst (Includes: Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties)

Denton County: Tornado touched down near the City of Carrollton.

DDC 4 – Garland (Includes: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, and Rockwall Counties)

High winds damaged roofs and uprooted trees around the DFW airport and the Carrollton area.

DDC 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties)

Cass County: Cass County Sheriff's Office requested assistance in Queen City storm damage has been reported with multiple trees down and persons trapped. [Cass County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration on March 22.](#)

DDC 6 – Tyler (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties)

DDC 6 will move to a Level III (increased readiness) for severe weather and winter weather.

Henderson County: Henderson County EOC is activated to Level III. City of Athens in Henderson County reporting several power lines down and broken tree limbs from storm front.

Marion County: Lake of the Pines: Reported RV trailers overturned near City of Gilmer. [Marion County submitted a Disaster Declaration and Disaster Summary Outline on March 22.](#)

Rusk County: Rusk County EOC is activated to Level II. Rusk County is reporting multiple trees down in the area high winds have taken out the South Fire Radio Tower which is affecting communications in the area. [Rusk County submitted a Disaster Declaration on 3/22/22.](#)

City of Tatum: Lightning struck a natural gas well resulting in an explosion and fire no injuries have been reported.

Smith County: Smith County ESD #2 EOC is activated to Level III. City of Whitehouse EOC is activated to Level III.

Upshur County: Upshur County EMC opened the basement of the Courthouse for citizens that needed a storm shelter. Upshur EMC Reporting damages around Hwy 271-Eagle Rd-to Hwy 300 and 154 - East of Gilmer this damage is preventing Emergency Responders to access residences of persons that have sustained injuries. Upshur County submitted a Disaster Declaration on 3/22/22.

Secondary searches were completed Tuesday and damage assessments are ongoing. A Disaster Declaration and Disaster Summary Outline were submitted. County officials are meeting to organize recovery operations. NWS completed an assessment of the area and determined that the system that went through the area was a EF2 tornado with 135 mph winds.

A Volunteer Reception Center was established Tuesday and located at the New Beginnings Baptist Church in Gilmer. The American Red Cross, Texas Baptist Men, and Samaritan's Purse along with many individual volunteers were on scene assisting with individuals affected by the tornado.

A flight has been scheduled for the county emergency management coordinator in the morning to survey the affected areas. A short plans team has been ordered to assist Upshur County Office of Emergency Management. Locating debris disposal sites will be the priority for tomorrow with assistance from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

City of Gilmer: Reports that a tornado touched down.

DDC 22 – Sherman (Includes: Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties)

Cooke County: Tornado touched down near the City of Gainesville in Cooke County. Cooke County submitted a Disaster Summary Outline on 21 March 2022. Cooke County submitted a Disaster Declaration on 22 March 2022.

Grayson County: The Grayson County EOC is activated at Level I. Tornado touched down near the City of Gordonville. Tornado touched down near the City of Sherwood Shores. A fatality has been reported in the community of Sherwood Shores in Grayson County. DPS helicopter was on scene to determine damage in Sherwood Shores in Grayson County.

National Weather Service meteorologists conducted a storm survey today with OEM and have determined that an EF-2 tornado with maximum winds of 130 mph impacted the Sherwood Shores area.

TX-TF2 completed Search and Rescue of the community and performed damage assessments on the structures. 109 residences were searched at which time only one resident remained needing evacuation assistance. Of the 109 properties assessed, 53 were determined to be destroyed, 27 had major damage, nine had minor damage and 20 were unaffected.

Texoma Medical Center reported treatment of five injured individuals who arrived by ambulance Monday. Wilson N Jones Regional Medical Center reported treatment of six injured individuals, three arrived by ambulance and three by private vehicle Monday. One 73-year-old woman lost her life in the storm when her home was destroyed.

GCEC crews have worked all day to restore power to area residents. As of 4:45 p.m., 371 customers remained without power. GCEC will not be able to restore service to approximately 40 customers at this time due to extensive property damage. The remaining restorations may take 5-7 days.

A shelter is open in Whitesboro (First Baptist). The United Way of Grayson provided non-congregate shelter for two injured victims released from the hospital.

Grayson Disaster Relief cash donations will be collected by United Way as fiscal agent for the benefit of local storm impacted residents and first responding agencies. Text "gctv" to 313131 to make a donation today. Collections of items and goods cannot be managed by the impacted areas at this time.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 13 – Bryan (Includes: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington Counties)

Brazos County: Tornado touched down Southwest of College Station in Brazos County.

Madison County: The City of Madisonville has reported that structures have been damaged throughout the city including the Son-Shine Outreach Center. [Madisonville submitted a Disaster Declaration on March 22.](#)

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties)

Nacogdoches County: State Highway 204 and several county roads have been reported as being closed due to debris. One home has been reported damaged, in the Cushing community one injury was reported. [Nacogdoches County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.](#)

Houston County: Probable tornadic activity in Houston County around 10:45 PM critically injured 3 persons and caused damage to approximately 30 homes. Approximately 6300 residents without power in Houston County - the City of Crockett is without power. Crockett Civic Center continues to serve as the shelter, hosting 60-70 residents. Updates on length of shelter being open will be provided.

Additional impacts reported in the Cushing community, to include heavy debris with impacts to county roads and (1) injured person, non-life threatening.

DDC 16 – Rosenberg (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda and Wharton Counties):

DDC 16D activated to Readiness Level III (increased readiness). There are reported damages to structures and utility poles in Wharton County, and some damages to mobile homes in Fort Bend County.

Region 5 (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, and 7)

DDC 1 – Amarillo (Includes: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher and Wheeler Counties)

DDC 1 has returned to Readiness Level IV (normal operations). The snow has cleared the area and all state assets were released.

The district remains in a blizzard warning until 10:00 AM March 22. The northern part of the district is in a High Wind Warning until 7:00 PM March 22. TFS is assisting TxDOT with the clearing of roads in Amarillo. There are approximately 12,000 customers without power in the DDC 1 area. Crews are working to restore service as quickly as possible. There were 32 ISDs/colleges/private schools delayed or closed on March 22. The Code Blue warming station in Amarillo will be open from 7:00 PM until 7:30 AM.

DDC 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties)

Jack County: Tornado debris field in Jacksboro approximately 10-15 miles long, 1/2 mile wide from Barton Chapel Rd to Hwy 59. TPWD in Jack County responded to Jacksboro to assist with search and rescue efforts. Tornado damaged schools in Jacksboro the students were taking shelter within the structure itself.

Jack County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.

Montague County: Tornado touched down near the City of Bowie. City of Bowie Submitted Disaster Declaration on 21 March 2022.

Montague County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 12 – Austin (Includes: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties)

Bastrop County: Bastrop County submitted a Disaster Declaration. Damage assessments are ongoing.

Caldwell County: Tornado touched down near the City of Luling.

Travis County:

City of Elgin: Reports of a tornado touch down in Elgin. Oncor temporarily supplied power to Water Treatment Plant until repairs can be made today for downed powerlines. Reports of downed powerlines and severe roof damage along US Hwy 290.

Damage assessments are ongoing in the City of Elgin. There are nine power poles and 1,000 feet of line down, along with numerous trees down. Approximately 65 homes were damaged by the tornado in upper Elgin.

Williamson County: Williamson County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

City of Granger: Tornado touched down near Granger.

City of Round Rock: Tornado touched down in the city. Reports of an overturned semi-truck and trees uprooted after tornado touched down in Round Rock. Reports of businesses damaged within the Round Rock City Limits. A woman was rescued from a collapsed structure in Round Rock. Numerous homes reported to have been damaged.

DDC 18 – San Antonio (Includes: Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, and Medina Counties)

Guadalupe County: Tornado touched down near the City of Kingsbury.

Guadalupe County submitted a Letter to the Governor and a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 23 – Killeen (Includes: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba Counties)

Bell County: Tornado touched down on Ft. Hood. Ft. Hood reported their weather radar potentially damaged.

Milam County: Tornado touched down near the City of Rockdale.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Texas A&M University System (TAMUS): Regional staff have been deployed to impacted areas to assist local officials in damage assessment and identification of needs. The SOC continues

to facilitate information sharing and the coordination of response and recovery operations.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): The CCG is working with their public, private, vendor and volunteer partners to respond to possible communications outages caused by the severe weather event. The tornado that went through the city of Jacksboro impacted the cellular network supporting Jacksboro, resulting in a degraded network. The various cellular providers responded by deploying equipment and personnel. AT&T FirstNet deployed two SAT COLTs and associated personnel. Verizon deployed technicians and support equipment. The Commission on State Emergency Communication (CSEC) is confirming possible impacts to PSAP 9-1-1 service in Jack County.

TDEM Mass Care: Damage and injuries were reported in Jack, Montague, Williamson, Bastrop, Grayson, Cooke, Falls, Travis, Guadalupe, Bell, Milam and Houston Counties. As soon as impacted areas become safely accessible, The American Red Cross (ARC) Damage Assessment teams will be conducting damage assessment activities. All current ARC sheltering activities are pending coordination and confirmation, and a midnight shelter count will be provided on March 23 at 7:00 AM. Independent shelters were opened in Elgin in Travis County and Round Rock in Williamson County. Other Temporary Evacuation Points and overnight shelters will be established as required. ARC will utilize local vendors, shelf stable meals, snacks and water in ARC managed shelters. ARC will also work with feeding partners to support shelter operations. ARC teams are moving into impacted areas to provide information to clients on where to find community services and donations. ARC is coordinating with local, state, and federal emergency management partners on planning assumptions and response activities. The ARC has been monitoring the various counties within the state for any asks or needs.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) / Texas A&M Public Works Response Team (TX-PWRT): The Advance Team Lead was assigned to DDC 4B Garland as a TX-PWRT liaison was demobilized. Two TEEX/TX-PWRT personnel are managing ESF3 Public Works and Engineering at the Remote SOC.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): Texas Task Force 1 & 2 (TX-TF1 & 2): At the request of TDEM, deployed TX-TF1 as a Type-1 US&R team and TX-TF2 as a Type-3 US&R team in response to the forecasted severe weather. TX-TF1 is also activating 4 water rescue squads with a Water Group Supervisor to assist with potential flooding within the State of Texas. Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) is activated as a Type-1 US&R team and is staged in College Station, Texas. TX-TF2 is activated as a Type-3 US&R team and is engaged in search operations in Grayson Co., following tornado damage in several communities. Current operational plans will move TX-TF2 to Jacks Co. in the morning to conduct secondary searches in another impacted community. TX-TF1 Water Rescue Squads are activated and staging in Ft. Worth, Dallas, College Station, and Brenham. An ESF-9 Liaison has been deployed to DC 4B, Garland TX.

Texas Task Force 2 (TX-TF2) completed all requested assignments within Grayson County. The initial search totaled 54 destroyed structures and 29 structures with major damage. Primary and secondary searches resulted in no fatalities located. TX-TF2 is relocating to home base to standby for additional assignments. Texas Task Force 1 & 2 were authorized to demobilize effective at 5PM on 3 March.

All Texas A&M Task Force 1 and Texas Task Force 2 resources were demobilized at 16:00 on March 22, 2022. All personnel arrived home at 21:00 on March 22, 2022.

Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUC): The PUC was activated to the SOC effective 8:00 AM on Monday, March 21. The PUC has been tracking approximately 52,000 outages throughout the state, primarily in Central and East Texas. Local outages caused by severe weather have lessened as restoration crews work to effect repairs, while new outages are created in the Easterly path of the storms. Further outages are expected in East Texas.

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC): The RRC is monitoring temporary natural gas service interruptions affecting the City of Carbon, City of Gorman, the City of Lipan, the City of Jacksboro, and the City of Round Rock. The natural gas service provider for the City of Gorman has restored service to nearly all customers. Natural gas service restoration efforts have begun for the City of Lipan. After assessing tornado damage, the natural gas service provider for the City of Jacksboro isolated service lines expected to be leaking and turned off meters serving damaged structures. The natural gas service provider for the City of Round Rock is planning to deploy advanced natural gas leak detection technicians to the area. The RRC will continue to work with the service providers and state and local partners until service is fully restored to these areas.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has staff available to assist local governments with any air/water/waste related issues including drinking water/wastewater issues and/or emergency response activities. Also, TCEQ has staff available to provide technical assistance and guidance regarding temporary debris management sites.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): The remote State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) activated to support severe weather operations beginning at 8:00 AM March 18th. Severe storms with at least 11 tornadoes have caused damage across the state. Faith Community Hospital, Jacksboro, Jacks County lost power and enacted divert status. EMTF resources were deployed to assist in transport.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): TxDOT Crews in the Fort Worth District cleared roadways in Jack County from debris from a tornado Monday afternoon. TxDOT has been plowing and de-icing roads in the Panhandle Region. There are 5 roadways listed with snow / ice conditions. [Crews in the Fort Worth District cleared roadways in Jack County from a tornado on March 21.](#) The Austin,

Bryan, Lufkin, Tyler, and Atlanta Districts are patrolling and clearing roads of trees and debris from the overnight storms.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): HHSC began staffing the SOC in support of emergency weather response operations on March 21. HHSC staff will remain in the SOC for the duration of the incident. HHSC is actively monitoring the situation. Long-term Care Regulation had multiple facilities impacted. For certified facilities, there was one facility evacuated, one facility with a power outage which required generator power, and one facility with minor leaking which required that some residents move to a different part of the facility. There were also two assisted living facilities impacted. One is pending evacuation and another has minor damage but required no evacuations. Childcare Regulation reports that up to four facilities have been damaged with one facility reporting that it has relocated due to damage. State Hospitals and State Supported Living Centers report no major impacts at this time. The Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) 2-1-1 is distributing information about disaster assistance as needed. Emergency ice, water, and contracts have been activated. Staff are working to fulfill two STARs for ice and water for Madison County.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): TPWD has prepared department resources consisting of Texas Game Wardens and State Parks Police Officers equipped with swift water boats, shallow water boats, and a rescue helicopter to support boat rescue operations in areas affected by the Severe Weather Event. Game Wardens have returned to normal operations and are ready to support as needed.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): DPS has ensured the readiness of statewide resources to appropriately respond to this severe weather event. Texas Highway Patrol (THP) troopers and other DPS personnel are fully prepared to respond as conditions dictate. Affected THP Disaster District Chairs are communicating with applicable state and local officials as needed. DPS troopers and other agency personnel are providing support to applicable affected areas as requested. The DPS Aircraft Operations Division provided an aircraft and crew to conduct an aerial assessment of tornadic damage in Grayson County. DPS troopers from Region 7 (Capitol District) assisting with damage assessments in Elgin. Additionally, DPS troopers from Region 6 (Austin) assisting with damage assessments, road conditions, and down power lines in Williamson County, and DPS troopers from Region 1 (Sherman) assisting with damage assessments in Grayson and Cooke Counties. THP Chief's Office providing personnel at the SOC in support of increased readiness level for severe weather.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TEEX TX-TF1	Type 1 US&R	60	15	Demobilized	Brazos county

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TEEX TX-TF2	Type 3 US&R	40	11	Demobilized	Grayson County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Team	26	9	Demobilized	RSOC
TEEX TX-TF2	LNO	1	1	Assigned	Garland DDEOC
TEEX TX-TF1	LNO	2		Assigned	RSOC
TEEX TX-PWRT	Advance Team	1	1	Enroute	Garland
TEEX TX-PWRT	SOC Support	2	1	Assigned	Austin
DSHS	Severe Weather Package and SCO	43	2	Demobilized	Madisonville/Jacksboro
TCEQ	Staff	2		Activated	Austin/SOC
PUC	Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
RRC	Liaison	2		Assigned	RSOC
TXDPS	SOC LNO	1		Assigned	RSOC
TXDPS	Helicopter	2	1	Assigned	Dallas
TPWD	Liaison	2		Assigned	RSOC
TPWD	4x4 Vehicle	2	2	Assigned	RSOC
TxDOT	Liaison	1		Assigned	RSOC

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level I (Escalated Response Conditions) for COVID-19, Wildfire Outbreak, and the Severe Weather. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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